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**For Immediate Release**

## Area Children to Benefit from SRS Toys for Tots Campaign

*Over two decades of toy collection merit special celebration, thousands of toys collected*

AIKEN, S.C. (Dec. 8, 2011) – Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) are celebrating more than 20 years of supporting the Marine Toys for Tots campaign with the collection of more than 13,000 toys in 2011 and over 228,000 toys since the start of the SRS Toys for Tots Program in 1991.

Today's event marks one of the largest toy contributions to date at SRS, an effort requiring several large trucks and numerous volunteers.

The annual event is sponsored by SRS construction employees with the support and participation of the Department of Energy-Savannah River; National Nuclear Security Administration-Savannah River; Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC; Savannah River Remediation; WSI Savannah River Site Team; Parsons; The Augusta Building and Construction Trade Council; Baker Concrete and URS Site Testing Contracts. These companies and employees contribute in a variety of ways, including the donating of unwrapped toys, adopting a "Christmas Angel" or making a monetary contribution.

For the tenth year, construction employees also sponsored the Salvation Army's Angel Tree



Employees at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site celebrated today more than 20 years of support for the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots Program with the collection of more than 13,000 toys and over 228,000 toys since the start of SRS Toys for Tots campaigns in 1991. The 2011 campaign marked the largest toy contribution to date at SRS, an effort requiring several large trucks and numerous volunteers.

*The Savannah River Site is owned by the U.S. Department of Energy and is managed and operated by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC.*

program, enabling SRS employees to adopt 325 area children. Many SRS employees chose to give more than 4,200 clothing and accessory items to Angel Tree recipients.

SRS Toys for Tots Chair Sheri Still said, “Our hearts go out to area parents who so badly need a little help this time of year to provide a gift, however small, to brighten Christmas day for their children. Many of these families consist of single women and, largely due to the continuing recession, the working poor.”

Toys for Tots began in 1947, when Major Bill Hendricks, USMCR, and a group of Marine Reservists in Los Angeles collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children. The idea came from Bill’s wife, Diane. In the fall of 1947, Diane crafted a homemade doll and asked Bill to deliver the doll to an organization, which would give it to a needy child at Christmas. When Bill determined that no agency existed, Diane told Bill that he should start one. He did. The 1947 pilot project was so successful that the Marine Corps adopted Toys for Tots in 1948 and expanded it into a nationwide campaign.

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, is a Fluor-Daniel Partnership comprised of Fluor, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy’s Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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